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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/506,650	02/17/2000	Kazuhiro Hara	SONY-T0189	6824
29175	7590	10/03/2003	EXAMINER	
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD, LLC			TRAN, THIEN D	
P. O. BOX 1135			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135			2665	/D
DATE MAILED: 10/03/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/506,650	HARA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thien D Tran	2665	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 September 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being Willis et al by (U.S Patent No. 6385,647 B1).

Regarding claim 1, Willis discloses a communication method on-the Internet using an unidirectional communication line (col.10 lines 13-16), comprising the steps of: setting a route for receiving IP datagram to be transmitted to said communication line at the side for transmitting data to said communication line (col.18 lines 15-25); and

setting another route for realizing a virtual communication route from the receiving side to said transmitting side on said communication line, for carrying out bi-directional communication (col.20 lines 1-15, figure 15).

Regarding claims 2, 4 Willis discloses that communication line is the communication line via a satellite (col.17 lines 50-60).

Regarding claim 3, Willis discloses communication apparatus of a bridge type for carrying out communication using an IP protocol over an unidirectional communication line, comprising:

a first interface for receiving IP datagram to be transmitted to said uni-directional communication line (col.30 lines 30-50); and

a second interface for realizing a virtual communication route from the receiving side to said communication apparatus on said uni-directional communication line for carrying out bidirectional communication (figure 15).

Regarding claim 5, Willis discloses a communication method for connecting a second communication line capable of bi directional communication to bridge type transmitting means for transmitting data to a first uni-directional communication line, thereby virtually carrying out the bi-directional communication over said first communication line, comprising the step of:

determining a destination of a packet inputted to said transmitting means through a predetermined interface, then determining which network the packet should be transferred to in accordance with the determined destination of the packet, and then

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transferring the packet through a predetermined interface only when transfer is necessary. See col.19 lines 1-20.

Regarding claim 6, Willis discloses that transmitting means automatically detects addresses of nodes connected to the network at the transmitting side (col.11 lines 20-50).

Regarding claims 7, 8, 10, 11, Willis discloses that transmitting means holds the automatically detected addresses of the nodes connected to the network at the transmitting side in the form of a list, and said transmitting means determines whether or not the packet is transferred in accordance with said list (col.14 lines 55-65).

Regarding claim 9, Willis discloses communication apparatus, which is designed as bridge type transmitting means for transmitting data to a first uni-directional communication line, comprising:

an interface connected to a second communication line capable of bi-directional communication; and

control means for determining a destination of a packet inputted through a predetermined interface, then determining which network the packet is transferred to in accordance with the destination, and then executing transfer processing only when transfer is necessary (col.18 lines 1-35).

Regarding claim 12, Willis discloses control means regularly updates said list stored in said address storing means, and said control means deletes from said list the address of the node which does not transmit the packet for a fixed time period or longer (col.10 lines 1-65).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 07/17/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Willis does not disclose a communication method on the Internet using an unidirectional communication line as claimed. However, Examiner respectfully disagrees with the argument because Willis discloses the flow of data via Internet or IP datagram using satellite is uplink (unidirectional) from the source to the destination. See col.10 lines 5-30.

Applicant argues that Willis does not disclose setting a virtual communication route from the receiving side to the transmitting side in bi-directional communication. However, Examiner disagrees with the argument because the connection (virtual) is bi-directional between the source and the destination. See figure 1 (see arrow of communication using internet from source 110 to destination 150), col.7 lines 60-65. Note* the communication is two ways. Therefore, the receiving facility is able to notify the source that there are errors in data status so that the source 110 can retransmit data. See col.4 lines 35-45.

Applicant argues that Willis does not disclose a bridge for transmit data over unidirectional communication. However, Examiner respectfully disagrees with the argument because Willis discloses a gateway (can be bridge as described in col.1 lines 15-20, col5 lines 50-55) to communicate with the satellite unidirectional.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Thien Tran whose telephone number is (703) 308-4388. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huy Vu, can be reached on (703) 308-6602. Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Thien Tran



HUY D. VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

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